

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Northeastern University School of Law, one of the nation's leading public interest law schools, is proud to offer the Public Interest Law Scholarship to several outstanding applicants each year.

The Public Interest Law Scholars Program was launched in 1999 by generous graduates and friends who believed that the mission of the law school naturally led to the need for such a scholarship. The first class of scholars graduated in 2003. These graduates have built a significant network, giving back to the program and assisting new students as they pursue their public interest law careers.

On average, graduates of the School of Law enter public interest careers at a rate three to five times the national average for graduates of all law schools. Our Public Interest Law Scholars find that they are members of a large law school community, including both students and graduates, who plan to pursue or are currently working in public interest law.

We encourage you to explore the many ways in which Northeastern University School of Law is a leader in the field of public interest law, from our public interest co-op requirement to our Loan Deferral and Forgiveness Program to the high percentage of students who

undertake public interest co-ops to our public interest placement rates after graduation. We are convinced you will not find another law school more committed to social justice and the need for dedicated leaders in this field.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Public Interest Law Scholarship covers full tuition, renewable each year as long as the scholar remains in good academic standing. It is the most generous and prestigious scholarship offered by the law school and recipients are among our strongest students. Not only do recipients have academic profiles that boast impressive scores and grades, they also have deep backgrounds in fields that relate to social justice and public service. Many have worked for years in areas such as human rights, immigration, social work, child advocacy, prison reform, politics and welfare reform.

Upon graduating from the School of Law, it is expected that scholars will spend a significant portion of their careers, including at least three of the first five years of legal practice, in public interest law. If, for any reason, recipients decide not to practice in the public interest, it is expected that they will repay the law school for the Public

Interest Law Scholarship in the form of a major donation to the program (covering at least the amount of scholarship received).

ROLE OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW SCHOLARS

At Northeastern University School of Law, Public Interest Law Scholars find a large and vibrant community of students, faculty and staff who are dedicated to social justice and public interest law. The special role of the scholars is to organize and work with this community. In contrast to many schools, scholars will find widespread support of their interests and concerns in the larger community.

Scholars are asked to take a leadership role at the law school by continuing to challenge our thinking and societal norms through the development of a variety of programs aimed at creating discussions in our community. Programs may include inviting faculty members to speak about their previous or ongoing public interest work and how it connects to what students are currently doing and studying, scheduling brown bag lunches for students to discuss public interest co-ops and how they fit into their career aspirations, planning public service days, and inviting guest lecturers to come to the law school to speak on current events in public interest law.

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Beyond planning activities for the law school community, scholars are expected to become involved in faculty research, participate in one of the many public interest groups at the law school or plan public service projects in Greater Boston.

Co-op is an important part of every student's experience at the law school. For those who receive the Public Interest Law Scholarship, it is mandated that at least two of the four required co-ops be in public interest law. The Office of Cooperative Legal Education works with students to find excellent co-op opportunities and it is not unusual for Public Interest Law Scholars to complete more than two public interest co-ops.

SELECTION PROCESS

Students who wish to be considered for the Public Interest Law Scholarship must complete the scholarship application and mail it to the School of Law postmarked no later than January 4, 2010. Finalists for the scholarship will be asked to come to campus on March 16, 2010, for an interview with members of the selection committee. Offers will be made by mid-April, 2010. Applicants have three business days to accept or decline the award. If an applicant is offered and accepts the scholarship, all applications to other law schools must be withdrawn.

The superb academic performance of applicants, along with their experience in public interest work, is carefully considered by the committee.

Candidates must demonstrate a clear understanding of why they want to study and practice law, and how their goals connect to the social justice mission of the law school and their desire to pursue a career in public interest law. The committee also considers the leadership potential of candidates, as well as the diversity of their backgrounds.

Scholarship Application Due: **January 4, 2010**

Finalist Interviews
and Reception: **March 16, 2010**

Awards Made: **By mid-April, 2010**

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